

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Limit on SEZs in each State

1498. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a limit has been fixed for setting up of Special Economic Zones in every State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the norms would be revised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Implementation of SAFTA

1499. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the current status of implementation of South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) by each member country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): The Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) has come in to force from 1st January, 2006 and in view of the different budget periods, the Member States, except Nepal, had decided to implement its phased Tariff Liberalization Programme (TLP) with effect from 1st July 2006, and Nepal from 1st August 2006 with the

condition that the TLP for the first two-year phase would be completed by 31st December, 2007. All the member states, namely India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have notified the tariff concessions for the first two-year phase. This TLP would cover all the tariff lines except those items in the Negative List (Called Sensitive List) by kept each Member State. However, contrary to its commitment, the Government of Pakistan has issued a notification for tariff concessions with a rider according to which India's exports to Pakistan would continue to be as per their list of importable items from India (called Positive List) which at present consists of 1075 items. The details on SAFTA are available in the website <http://commerce.nic.in> under the sub-heading India's current engagement RTAs - SAFTA.

Displacement of People due to SEZs

1500. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special Economic Zones, which are being developed/proposed to be developed in various States, are likely to displace lakhs of people and also result in land scams; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to prevent land scams, huge revenue losses and to rehabilitate the people being displaced by the Special Economic Zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The benefits derived from multiplier effect of the investments and additional economic activity in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and the employment generated will outweigh the tax exemptions. Land being a State subject rehabilitation of the displaced persons is looked after by the State Governments. Moreover, even as per the conditions of the Letter of Approval issued by the Central Government, the developer is required to make adequate provision for rehabilitation of the displaced persons.